



Bicycles and horses have been used off and on by the department for many years. No matter how high gas prices may rise, rest assured that CPD's diverse transportation "fleet" will keep rolling...and trotting...along! From the left are: Officer Elena Moton, Mounted Unit, and her equine partner, Joseph, a 10-year-old American Quarter Horse; Lisa Hughes, Clerk Typist 3, Personnel; Officer Laurie Wobser, Financial Crimes; Bernie Wobkenberg, Operator Dispatcher, Communications Section; and Officer Charles Gardner, District 2 Bicycle Patrol. *Photo by Rick Adams.*

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The BLUE WAVE

Volume II • Number Three • SUMMER 2006

For the Cincinnati Police Department officers, civilian employees, retirees and their respective families.

CINCINNATI SCORES A HIT HOSTING NOBLE CONFERENCE

Law enforcement officials from across the United States and several other nations gathered in Cincinnati on July 7-12 to attend the 30th annual National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Training Conference and Exhibition.

This was the first event held in the newly renovated Duke Energy Convention Center. With the theme "Acknowledge the past, inspire positive change and create a better future," the conference included a town hall meeting on "Cincinnati's Youth Gun Violence: Strategies for Prevention." The forum partnered NOBLE with the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, the Uptown Consortium, Inc. and the Community Police Partnering Center. Doctors Kenneth Davis, University Hospital and Victor Garcia, University of Cincinnati Hospital and police chiefs from Baltimore, Prince Georges County, Maryland and Forest Park, Ohio joined Richard Pennington, Atlanta Chief of Police and NOBLE President, and CPD Chief Thomas Streicher in defining the local problem and discussing solutions that have been successful in their respective communities.



Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell gave keynote address. *Photo by George Jones.*

In his keynote speech Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell challenged the audience to use their positions of leadership to serve as role models and mentors

for others. He noted that police departments were markedly different in 1976 when NOBLE was organized. "Someone else paid the price for you," Blackwell said. "Now, because of your engagement in . . . your community, you can now celebrate diversity and continue to push for other changes."

The conference included numerous workshops whose subjects ranged from radio communication technology to criminal intelligence strategies for the future. "The conference," said Jacksonville Assistant Chief Larry Jones, "offered me a great deal of beneficial information that will help me in my career."



Executive Manager of Police Relations S. Gregory Baker receives special recognition for the city's sponsorship from NOBLE Executive Director Jessie Lee. *Photo by Abby Myers.*

The Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated that over \$1.0 million was spent in Cincinnati by conferees during the conference. Beyond the positive economic benefits, both the City and the CPD earned new respect from those who attended. Executive Manager of Police Relations S. Gregory Baker said "When we originally bid for the conference our goal was to afford African-American police executives from across the nation a first hand experience of what this great city offers. We also wanted to demonstrate

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From the Desk of ...

Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., *Cincinnati Chief of Police*

Whenever I ask CPD people, whether they are in sworn or non-sworn positions, why they sought to work at our department I am always impressed with the thoughtfulness of the responses. With some people policing is a family tradition and there is great pride in taking part in keeping the tradition alive. Others seek police work because of a sense of adventure and a desire to be part of the action. Many are intrigued by the technology we employ and seek an opportunity to work with it. Still others are drawn to the department because they feel it offers a secure job with good benefits.

But there is one reason stated by virtually every person and certainly it is the one that comes through most strongly: the desire to “make a difference” in people’s lives through service to the community.

We all recognize that there have been enormous changes in the technology of policing through the years with personal radios and TASERS probably the biggest technology changes in the last 50 years.

There has also been an on-going evolution in the philosophy of policing. One of the biggest changes when it comes to the policing strategies has been to actively seek the involvement of the community we are serving. Instead of just “telling” people what to do, we also “ask” them to help us identify problems, work out solutions and implement them. The police and community are now, more than ever, active partners. This has proved to be a successful strategy in a variety of ways. Most recognizable is the fact that our fellow citizens are very effective as extra eyes and ears. Equally important is that they bring a wealth of

expertise in a multitude of areas to the table, just as we have brought our particular types of expertise to them.

Being involved with the community in this manner is part of our jobs and makes us more effective, more successful in the work we conduct. But there is another type of community involvement that I want to encourage the current members of the Cincinnati Police Department, both sworn and non-sworn, as well as our retirees, to take part in doing. I strongly believe that the more of this we do, the more it will improve the respect the community has for our work and the recognition of the humanity of the department.

Simply stated, I encourage each of you to be as good and active a community citizen as you can be.

This means far more than following the law, paying taxes and keeping your grass mowed. It means being *actively engaged in the community as a private citizen*. It does not matter whether your activity of choice is coaching a children’s sports team, working on a church committee, helping out at a senior center, doing volunteer work at a museum, helping with an animal rescue group, taking part in a fund raiser for a charitable organization or a host of other things. What is important is that you do *something*, on your own time with your own resources, to give back to the community you live in.

This kind of activity reminds the community of our own humanity by putting a face on policing...it expands our network of friends and supporters who will see us as fellow citizens who care in a multitude of ways. And most important, it helps make the Greater Cincinnati area a better place for all of us and our families. 🦋



Members of the 100th Recruit Class joined hundreds of other community citizens one Saturday in May helping pick up litter as part of the Great American Cleanup Day. Photo by Officer Governor Williams.

“There is one reason stated by virtually every person and certainly it is the one that comes through most strongly: the desire to “make a difference” in people’s lives through service to the community.”

—Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr.



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TRANSITIONS

Retirements

The following people retired between April 1 and June 30, 2006. Their years of service are appreciated and they will be missed. We wish them a long and happy retirement!

41 years

- Officer Ronald E. Miller, Criminal Investigation Section

33 years

- Sergeant Edwin Deters, District 4

29 years

- Specialist David Kelly, Central Vice Control

26 years

- Specialist Diana Maxwell, Criminal Investigation Section

17 Years

- Marsha Schwab, Clerk Typist 3, District 1

Promotions

Congratulations to the following individuals on their promotions during the second quarter of the year. We wish them great success with their new responsibilities!

Sworn Personnel Promotion

- Sergeant Timothy Brown to Lieutenant
- Specialist Gregory Hines to Sergeant
- Specialist Eric Vogelpohl to Sergeant
- Officer Eric Franz to Sergeant
- Officer Timothy Bley to Specialist
- Officer Gregory Gehring to Specialist
- Officer Marian Jenkins to Specialist
- Officer Scout Krauser to Specialist
- Officer Jeffrey Scholl to Specialist

Non-Sworn Personnel Promotion

- Paula Selby, Clerk Typist 1 to Clerk Typist 2, Communications Section
- Theresa Butler, Assistant Operator/Dispatcher to Operator/Dispatcher, Communications Section



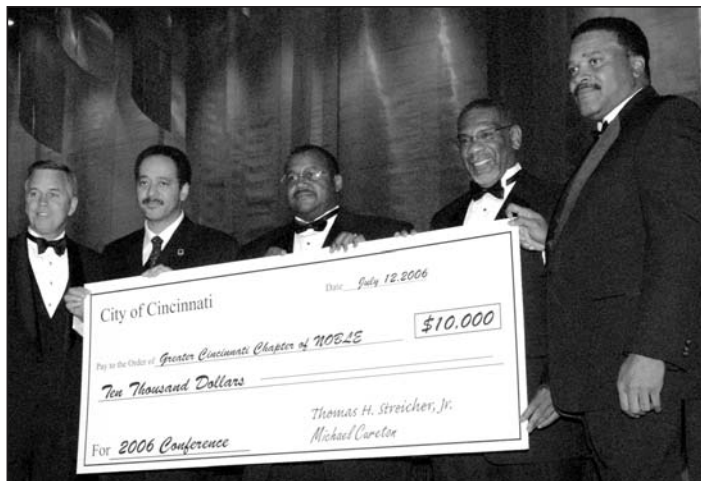
New Hires/Transfers

We are pleased to welcome one new hire and two transfers from other City departments into the CPD family. We look forward to working with them for many years. (Recruits and reinstated officers who joined CPD in the second quarter will be acknowledged in a special feature article in the fall issue of this newsletter.)

- Christina Hahn, Clerk 2, Communications Section (from Health Department)
- Peggy Palmer, Clerk Typist 3, Impound Unit (from Metropolitan Sewer District)
- Lynnette M. Schroer, Clerk Typist 1, Records Section

CINCINNATI SCORES A HIT HOSTING NOBLE CONFERENCE

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A \$10,000 check was presented to the local NOBLE chapter. From the left are Chief Tom Streicher, Cincinnati NOBLE Chapter President Greg Hutchins, Region IV Vice President Earnest McCowen, CPD's S. Gregory Baker and Lt. Colonel Mike Cureton. Photo by George Jones.

Heights City Manager Earnest McCowen, NOBLE Region IV Vice President and Gregory Hutchins, Cincinnati NOBLE Chapter President to plan, organize and implement the event in a time period shortened from two years to six months.

Despite having only six months to raise the needed funds, the effort was so successful that at the annual banquet Chief Streicher presented the Cincinnati NOBLE Chapter with a check for \$10,000 in support of its efforts, and a check for \$50,000 to the NOBLE national office.

Members of the local chapter, several CPD staff, and volunteers from the community, took active roles in the conference's behind-the-scenes work. Officer Gene Seay helped coordinate the annual Memorial March and Service. Ten candles were lit to commemorate members who have died since the previous conference, including one founding NOBLE member.

Luncheons provided participants with networking opportunities, as did evening social activities including an evening cruise along the Ohio River and the Host City Reception held in the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. 🏠

Article by Gregory Baker, Abby Myers and Patricia Trubow.



Holding the \$50,000 check presented to the national NOBLE organization are CPD's S. Gregory Baker and Lt. Colonel Mike Cureton. Photo by George Jones.

the high level of professionalism exercised by Cincinnati police officers. We exceeded our goal!"

The 2006 conference was scheduled to be held in New Orleans; Cincinnati was bidding for the 2008 conference. Late in 2005 it became apparent that damage dealt by Hurricane Katrina would make a New Orleans meeting impossible. NOBLE President Pennington asked CPD Chief Streicher if Cincinnati could host the event. CPD worked in conjunction with Lincoln

POLICE APPRECIATION AND

The Hamilton County Law Enforcement Community's Police Appreciation and Achievement Awards were presented May 18 at the Sharonville Convention Center. Members of the Cincinnati Police Department received the bulk of the awards with 12 officers, a civilian employee and a retired officer being honored.

Act of Bravery

Officer Jeremy Howard, Officer Colleen Deegan and Officer Jason Hubbard were commemorated for their acts of bravery and commitment to the preservation of safety. The officers observed a suspicious man who pulled a handgun and aimed directly at Hubbard. Deegan managed to knock the gun aside, and simultaneously the suspect fired grazing Hubbard's arm. The suspect then led Deegan and Howard on a foot pursuit firing shots back at the officers as he ran. Howard shot the suspect, but the suspect continued to run out of sight. Two hours later, CPD was notified that the suspect had been taken to the hospital and was arrested by the Covington, Kentucky, Police Department. He is awaiting charges on three counts of attempted aggravated murder of a police officer. Howard, Deegan and Hubbard were recognized for their brave actions and tactics.



Specialist Brian Trotta and Specialist Jenny Luke were working as plainclothes detectives when they observed a man who appeared to be following a woman in a suspicious manner. Moments later, they saw the suspect chasing another man. Trotta and Luke identified themselves as police officers and approached the suspect. The suspect fired a .44 caliber handgun at Trotta, striking him in the knee. Luke returned gunfire and chased the suspect who again fired at them. The officers radioed their location, and other officers responded

to assist. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with one count of aggravated robbery of the citizen and two counts of attempted murder of a police officer. Trotta and Luke's genuine acts of bravery contributed to the safety of their fellow officers and community.

Police Work with Children

Officer James Robb was recognized for his work with a girls' soccer program at Western Hills High School. When he began coaching the team, they had not seen a victory in over three years, and after only two years, the team finished third in its league. Officer Robb also helped teach them good citizenship skills for life. His hard work helped to cultivate the girls' character, athletic skill and self-esteem.

Outstanding Job of Traffic Enforcement/Education



Recognized for his outstanding job of traffic enforcement and education was *Specialist Michael Flamm*. Certified in accident reconstruction, he teaches several courses at the Police Academy and at the University of Cincinnati. Flamm has also been commended by city prosecutors for his outstanding court preparation and presentations in cases arising from traffic crashes. In addition to sharing his expertise to help fellow officers in their work, Flamm speaks regularly on traffic safety at area schools.

Best Investigation Leading to the Solution of a Crime

Officer Jeffrey Schare and Officer Kurt Ballman were recognized for their persistence and hard work in closing the 1961 murder of Patrolman Donald Martin. For decades, the case had remained unsolved until Schare and Ballman reopened it in 2005. They resubmitted evidence to several labs so that it could be tested with the modern forensic technology. They spoke to an original investigator on the case, and he provided information to supplement notes in the case file. The death of the prime suspect freed his relatives from decades of curiosity, and they told detectives how he had bragged about shooting a policeman. His two accomplices also died. Officer Schare and Officer Ballman collected enough information for prosecution to close the only unsolved murder of a Cincinnati police officer.



From the left: Lieutenant Douglas Carmichael, James Olthaus, Officer Jeffrey Schare, Officer Kurt Ballman and Officer James Robb.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTED

Story and photos by Abby Myers

Superior Achievement in Professionalism

Lieutenant Douglas Ventre was recognized for his work as the Commander of the department's Tactical Planning Unit and Tactical SWAT Coordinator. He helped to develop the regional Terrorism Early Warning Group and organize other public safety and health agencies for homeland security.

This award was also bestowed upon *Lieutenant Joseph Hall* for his diligence and commitment to the Cincinnati Police Department for 39 years. He served as the Commander of the Intelligence Unit since 1988 and was recognized for his dedicated work with the Youth Aid Section and in the Intelligence Unit. Lieutenant Hall is considered a strong mentor for many officers that have risen through the ranks.

Citizen Award

Jerry Schimpf was recognized for assistance to CPD Officers Jeffrey Schare and Kurt Ballman in the investigation of the 1961 murder of Police Officer Donald Martin. He was the Cincinnati Police Detective originally assigned to the investigation four decades ago. Information he provided helped to close the only unsolved murder of a Cincinnati Police Officer.

Most Constructive Plans Idea to Improve Operations

Lieutenant Douglas Lee Carmichael and *Senior Computer Programmer Analyst James Olthaus* were honored for their efforts to design and implement an electronic tracking system. The system included risk-management factors, training information commendations and employee supplemental log entries. The system design has become a model for law enforcement agencies nationwide. 🏆

Personal Sacrifice Citations

Three CPD officers received recognition on May 17 at the Police Memorial for their personal sacrifices in the line of duty. A gold-bordered scarlet ribbon is awarded when an officer is wounded in the line of duty. *Officers Jason Hubbard, Specialist Brian Trotta* and *Officer Kristina Holtman* were all awarded this honor.

STORY IDEAS?

If you have a good story idea for *The Blue Wave*, you may contact **Patsy Trubow**, the editor, directly at **859-746-0100**, or e-mail her at **Trubow@HollisterTrubow.com**. You may also contact CPD's Public Information Office at **513-352-3515**.



Officer Elisha Orth and his canine partner, Bear.

Recognition for Canine Team

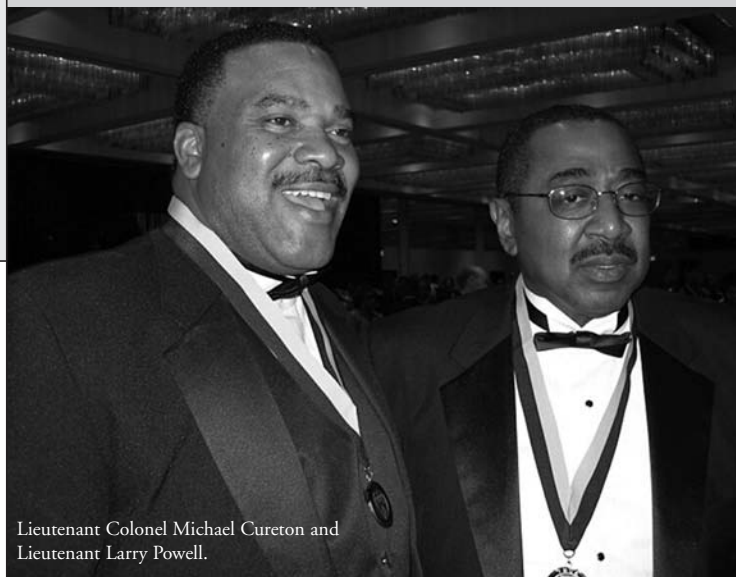
Officer Elisha Orth and his canine partner *Bear* have been selected by Region Five of the United States Police Canine Association for the National Patrol Catch of the fourth quarter in 2005.

Orth and Bear helped to locate the suspect who shot Specialist Brian Trotta December 29, 2005. The capture will be considered for the National Patrol Catch of the Year in September at the National Patrol Dog Certifications in St. Paul.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Cureton and Lieutenant Larry Powell Receive YMCA Black Achievers Award

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Cureton and *Lieutenant Larry Powell* were presented the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Black Achievers Award. They were recognized for their commitment and contributions to the community as outstanding African-American leaders. In accepting this award, they have agreed to serve as mentors to the Youth Achievers and help encourage academic development.

The awards ceremony took place on June 22 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. A total of 35 individuals were recognized for their contributions to the community. The YMCA Black Achievers Program was developed in 1971 by members of the New York Harlem YMCA to inspire young blacks to establish educational and career goals and to help cultivate relationships between young people and distinguished adults in the African-American community.



Lieutenant Colonel Michael Cureton and Lieutenant Larry Powell.



This circa 1950's photo shows an unidentified officer using an old District 2 call box. If you know who this man is, call or e-mail the editor (contact information on page 5) and we will run his name in the next issue of *The Blue Wave*.

POLICE CALL BOXES

Article by Lieutenant Alan March

The police call box, today a collector's item and museum piece, used to be as integral to daily police work as the radio is today. Call boxes were used in Cincinnati for over 100 years, meeting their demise by the mid-1970s when individual radios became common.

Prior to the call box, urgent information was passed between station houses by runners or messengers. In 1866, the Cincinnati Police adopted new technology:

a telegraph system was installed connecting police stations and other public locations such as businesses and hospitals. Housed in large boxes, each telegraph had a dial with spaces for every letter of the alphabet and the ten numerals. Messages were sent by turning the dial to one letter, tapping the key, then to the next letter, and so on, until the message was sent. Patrolmen could send messages from the field to their stations without knowing Morse code. A system of bells alerted station house supervisors to incoming messages.

This laborious method was complicated and slow. Within a year, the dial system was simplified. Codes, using numbers to represent phrases, or signals, were instituted. Manuals for the use of the police telegraphs were issued to every station house lieutenant. Interestingly, the code, or signal, for calling a station was "1." Thus, the phrase sometimes still used for calling the station, "Signal 1," is nearly 150 years old!

In 1879, the department replaced the telegraph with the telephone. Installing phones in call boxes and station houses was estimated to double police efficiency.

By 1890, 167 call boxes were on the streets of Cincinnati and connected to the eight patrol houses. Patrolmen were required to "call in" to their stations every hour with each call getting marked into a logbook. Each morning, a superintendent of police inspected the log; patrolmen without a good excuse for late calls were reprimanded.

Five men were hired whose sole duty was to handle these calls. They worked two twelve-hour reliefs, just as many E911 operators and dispatchers do today. Three of the men worked day shift, two worked nights. In 1888, there were 10,605 calls for patrol wagons, 372,445 general messages, and 130,305 calls by officers on beats. A total of 513,355 calls were handled by these five men.

There is one call box near the entrance to the second floor offices of CPD administration. Two call boxes are also on display at the police museum. One has been repainted and is mounted on a rare CPD call box pedestal. The other, is a "newer" call box, made of aluminum and much lighter in weight. Some of the more veteran officers, still employed by the department today, may recall using call boxes in their early work.

In Memoriam



The following retired members of the Cincinnati Police Department passed away between April 1 and June 30, 2006. We remember with joy both their service to the community and their friendship with us. Our condolences are extended to their families.

Officer Harry R. Roesner, of Cincinnati, died April 1, 2006 at age 78, served from 1955-1979

Officer Dowell D. Foley, of Cincinnati, died April 3, 2006 at age 59, served from 1968-1995

Officer Thomas M. Fahey, of Cincinnati, died April 25, 2006 at age 79, served from 1953-1979

Officer Donald W. Gray, of Versailles, Indiana, died May 4, 2006, at age 75, served from 1954-1986

Specialist George J. Ebberts, of Cincinnati, died May 17, 2006, at age 81, served from 1951-1977

Officer Marvin A. Boone, of North Fort Myers, Florida, died June 9, 2006, at age 69, served from 1964-1988

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THEY NOW?

Ever wonder what happened to your co-workers after they retired from the CPD? This column gives brief profile updates on a few retirees each issue.

Specialist Eileen Lackey

Retired 1999, 26 years

After retiring from the Fraud Unit, Eileen Lackey took a week off and then embarked on a second career as a *guardian ad litem* for children with the Hamilton County Public Defender's Office, thanks to her degree in social work from the University of Cincinnati. Eileen, who holds the distinction of being the last person given the rank of "policewoman," says she enjoys the challenge of her work. "As an officer in Juvenile, I arrested the offender and went onto the next case. Now I deal with what happens after the arrest and the long term effects on the child involved." Reflecting on her years with the CPD, her voice lights with enthusiasm. "I just *loved* working in Fraud and also my time in Crime Stoppers. And I loved Juvenile. I had great co-workers in every assignment, establishing friendships I enjoy to this day." Eileen is an active volunteer at the Underground Railroad Freedom Center and plays a lot of golf. Daughter Angie is also a social worker for Hamilton County and her son is studying Information Technology at Arizona State. Eileen lives in Amberly Village.



Charlie and Hazel Ross among their prize winning flowers.

my 29 years at CPD, but retirement is even better. Come on in – the water is fine!" he exclaims.

Son Jonathon is a manufacturing engineer working in Miami Lakes.

Daughter Stephanie is a junior at the University in Cincinnati. Hazel, his wife, retired as an elementary principal in the Mt. Healthy district a couple of years back and is his gardening partner. "I enjoyed

Detective William Wilburn

Retired 1977, 30 years

Long interested in antique pottery, stoneware and other items classified as "Americana," William and Ruby Wilburn began actively buying and selling antiques following his retirement. "We'd bought for ourselves for years and then began actively buying and selling to others." In about 1981, the couple moved to the southeastern Kentucky mountain community of Bimble near Cumberland Gap. They still reside there. Until neurological problems that are a side effect of his diabetes slowed him down four years ago, William continued to enjoy hunting and fishing. Ruby suffered a serious stroke this March, and now much of his time is spent caring for her, with the assistance of visiting healthcare providers. Ruby is making good progress. Reflecting on his career, he remembers with pride being part of the team that recovered the solid gold bowl that had belonged to King Darius of Persia and had been

stolen from the art museum. "I had a world of friends at Cincinnati Police and now many of them are gone. They were a good group of people and I miss them."

Lieutenant Charles Ross

Retired 2002, 29 years

Upon retirement Charlie Ross went to work for AKAL Security which has the national contract for federal courthouses. He works at the Sixth District Federal Court in Cincinnati, which also houses the appeals court for Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Michigan. Although initially full-time, "I discovered the joys of part-time work," he laughs and he now works 10 days a month. In addition to screening of people entering the courthouse and monitoring security cameras, he maintains order in the courtrooms and guards the judges. During his off-time he is an active volunteer at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and an avid gardener. For eight years in a row his yard has won a "Most Beautiful Yard" certificate from Forest Park.



The Breakfast Club

Left: Every Saturday at 8:30 a.m., several CPD retirees gather to enjoy one another's company over breakfast. The mix of people varies from one time to the next. "We're happy to see whoever is around and shows up," says Joe Staft. For the last few years, the group has met at Joyce's Family Restaurant on Harrison-Brookville Road in West Harrison, Indiana. On July 29, those attending posed for a post-breakfast photo. Kneeling from the left are Joe Staft, Tom Oberschmidt, and Butch Guy. Standing from the left are: Jim Frohn, Jerry Gramke (in far back), Lee Hightower, Walt Dewald (striped shirt), Charles May, Tom Harvey (wearing cap), Bill Bennett (in far back), Dan Bagot, George Schneider (wearing cap), Charles Elbe, Walt Kilgore and Don Byrd.

RETIREE MAILING LIST

If you know a retiree, widow or widower who is not receiving *The Blue Wave* and would like to, please ask the person to contact CPD's Personnel Section and request to be added to the mailing list. Due to budget limitations, the newsletter cannot be mailed to those who retired from another City department who had not previously completed at least 15 years of service at the CPD.

Requests to be on the mailing list may be called to **Lieutenant Alan March**, Personnel Section, at **513-353-3534**. He may also be e-mailed at **alan.march@cincinnati-oh.gov**, or surface mailed at 310 Ezzard Charles Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45214 and should include full address and telephone number, a well as rank or job title held at retirement.

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2006 TORCH RUN

Cincinnati's segment of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics was held on June 21. In the group of 80-plus runners, bicyclists and rollerbladers were many from the CPD, including the 100th Recruit Class.

About 20 who began the run completed the 16-mile path to the hand-off at Springdale Police Department. There were a couple of key "stopping" places for those who did not have the time to go the full distance. Statewide over 1,000 people took part in the event. Simultaneous Torch Runs from the four corners of Ohio were conducted with the torches reaching Columbus on June 23.

The proceeds that come from sponsorships were given to support Ohio's Special Olympics 2006 summer games. Including the money raised by the Police Academy, CPD donated over \$4,300 to this effort.



Sergeant Ed Buns of Hamilton City Police said "The CPD was an original agency of this event when it was first run in Cincinnati 21 years ago. We are pleased to have the Recruit class and other young officers involved which will help us grow the program for the future."

Sergeant Sylvia Morales (far left) carries the torch and leads the way at the beginning of the Torch Run along with two Special Olympics runners. With members of the 100th Recruit Class close on his heels, Chief Tom Streicher moves out smartly on the right.